
A man spotted his father alive on television - five years after he thought he had cremated him. A body discovered three years after his disappearance in 2000 was thought to be the pensioner, but it's now emerged it wasn't. From Manchester Danny Savage reports:

When John Delaney disappeared he was spending much of his time **living rough**. He was last seen in a hostel in Manchester. His family searched the streets of the city for him but had no luck. So when a **badly-decomposed** body was found in the grounds of the Manchester Royal Infirmary in 2003, wearing similar clothes, police believed it was Mr Delaney and his family held a funeral.

But earlier this year his son, John Renehan, saw a picture of his father on a BBC programme. **An appeal** was being made for anyone who knew the man - who had **amnesia - to come forward**.

JOHN RENEHAN:

Well I knew **straight away** that was **me dad**. I knew **straight away**. Obviously his face, it was a bit **disfigured**, but I just knew **straight away** that was **me dad**.

It emerged that John Delaney had been living in a **care home** for the last eight years. Police have admitted they made mistakes and their enquiries were insufficient. Mr Delaney's son now wants to know the identity of the man he **cremated** - thinking it was his father.

Danny Savage, BBC News, Manchester

Vocabulary and definitions

living rough	living outside, not in a house, and sleeping on the streets; having no fixed address
badly-decomposed	decayed to the extent that it was almost impossible to identify it
An appeal	a formal public request for help or, as in this case, information
amnesia	memory loss
to come forward	to be willing to offer help or, as in this case, to give information
straight away	immediately, without delay, at that very moment
me dad	my father (in certain English dialects people colloquially say 'me' instead of 'my')
disfigured	changed, different in appearance
care home	an institution where elderly people who have no relatives or friends able to look after them live and are cared for
cremated	when a dead person's body is burned to ashes as part of a funeral ceremony

More on this story: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/manchester/7597500.stm

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/09/080905_missing_father.shtml